

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for allowing instant messaging between a multi-user computer and an instant messaging device, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving first login information from a first user of the multi-user computer by an instant messaging system;
 - receiving second login information from a second user of the multi-user computer by the instant messaging system while the first user is logged in; and
 - providing an indication to the instant messaging device that the first user and the second user are logged into the instant message system together through the multi-user computer.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the second user is a guest and the second login information does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from the multi-user computer.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
 - rendering an instant message from the multi-user computer over a portion of a video display without a visible window surrounding the instant message.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered with a user-discernible fade in and a user-discernible fade out.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered over a marginal region of the video display.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 in which the instant message is rendered over a user-selectable portion of the video display.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from another source.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of transmitting one of plural predefined instant messages from the multi-user computer.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising receiving from a wireless remote control device a user indication of the one of plural predefined instant messages transmitted from the multi-user computer.
11. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer usable instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method a for allowing instant messaging between a multi-user computer and an instant messaging device, comprising the steps of:
receiving first login information from a first user of the multi-user computer by an instant messaging system;
receiving second login information from a second user of the multi-user computer by the instant messaging system while the first user is logged in; and
providing an indication to the instant messaging device that the first user and the second user are logged into the instant message system together through the multi-user computer
12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising the step of:
providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from the multi-user computer.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 further comprising the step of rendering an instant message on a portion of a video display without a visible window surrounding the instant message.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered with a user-discernible fade in and a user-discernible fade out.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered over a marginal region of the video display.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 in which the instant message is rendered over a user-selectable portion of the video display.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing a visual user interface to users of the multi-user computer concurrently with visual content from another source.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further comprising transmitting one of plural predefined instant messages.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 in which the one of plural predefined instant messages transmitted from the multi-user computer is selected by a user with a wireless remote control device.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the second user is a guest and the second login information does not correspond to a specific instant messaging user.

21 -29. Cancelled